

ST. WILLIAM OF YORK CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Headteacher: Mr M Murphy

School Business Manager: Mrs S Middlehurst

22nd November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

School Attendance

As you will know, the government have introduced new procedures for attendance from September. The School Attendance & Punctuality Policy was sent out on School Spider this week & can also be found on the School Website. The information below shows how attendance can affect your child's future progression.

- *Above 97%: Less than 6 days absence a year, Excellent attendance! These young people will almost certainly get the best grades they can, leading to better prospects for the future. Pupils will also get into a habit of attending school which will help in the future.*
- *95%: 10 days absence a year. These pupils are likely to achieve good grades and form a habit of attending school regularly. Pupils who take a 2 week holiday every year can only achieve 95% attendance.*
- *90%: 19 days absence a year. The Government classes Young People in this group as "Persistent Absentees", and it will be almost impossible to keep up with work.*

We monitor all children's attendance closely & ask for your support to ensure your child is in school as much as possible. Please see the leaflet we have sent out regarding common illness symptoms. Punctuality is also important. Children need to arrive by 8.40am as the gates will be locked at 8.45am & children need to be in class at 8.45am ready to start their school day. This applies to all classes in main school including Reception class (Nursery start at 8.45am). Any children arriving after 8.45am will need to be signed in late at the school office. Breakfast Club starts at 7.45am with last entry being 8.35am. Last time for food is 8.25am. Please see below attendance per class to date. Our target is 96%;

Rec	99.2%	Y1	94.3%	Y2	93.8%	Y3	94.2%	Y4	94.8%	Y5	94.1%	Y6	91%	All school	94.3%
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Fr Harrington

As you all know Fr Harrington passed away very recently and this came as a tremendous shock to the school and the wider community. It is our intention to come together with St Mary's Little Crosby and Holy Family High School in the near future to celebrate Fr Harrington's life. Details will be circulated once arrangements have been finalised.

Year 3 History Workshop

Year 3 had a great time yesterday learning all about the Stone Age as part of their History topics. Representatives from the Stone Age Centre near Lunt came in and worked with the children throughout the day, looking at what life was like during that period.

Non-Uniform Day – Donations

Thank you for all your kind donations today. These will form the basis of our raffle prizes with tickets being available from the school office as well as being sold at our forthcoming Christmas performances.

Christmas Jumper day

Although national "Christmas Jumper Day", in aid of Save the Children, is Thursday 12th December this coincides with our Christmas plays. Therefore we have decided to have ours on Wednesday 18th December as this is also the day when the children can have a Christmas dinner. All donations collected on that day will be sent off to Save the Children.



Together Everyone Achieves More

Immunisation Programme

The school nurses will be in on Thursday 28th November to deliver the Flu Nasal Immunisations for children throughout the school. Please see the messages sent on Schoolspider/email to opt in or out.

After School Club – Christmas Activities

We wanted to let you know that we have places available at our After School Club. The club runs from 3.15pm to 5.45pm daily in Term Time. After-school clubs are more than just a place to go; they're a chance for your children to learn, grow, and have fun outside of regular classes, to let off steam, make new friends, cooperate, and work together as a team. Their Emotional growth is supported as little ones learn to be patient and understanding through structured activities. Our after school sports and physical activities keep children healthy and happy especially during winter months. We have a special Christmas time table for November/December. Please see our Newsletter sent out last week for full details. The full session £12 must be booked to take part in Christmas Activities.

Pastoral Care Lead

Mr Davies is on the yard every morning before school should you have any queries or need any advice, you can also speak to him about any concerns you have around your child in class and then he can speak to the class teacher. You can also make an appointment to speak to him should you wish to discuss something further.

Reception Class Applications 2025

A reminder to all parents/carers of children who will be 4 before 31.8.25 that you will need to go online at Sefton`s website to complete the application for Reception class 2025. Applications for Reception Class 2025 need to be made by 15.1.25.

Doctors, Dentist & Hospital Appointment

A reminder to try to make routine Doctors & Dental Appointments outside of school hours. For all appointments in school hours we need to see the appointment letter, text or card.

Holiday Requests

All requests for absence must be made in writing at least 7 days in advance. We have forms available at the school office. Please see the School Website for more information about the changes to Penalty Notices from this year.

New School Telephone System

As you know we have had a new telephone system installed in school over the last month and there have been some teething problems. However hopefully now these have all been rectified and I would like to thank you for your patience. The new system has enhanced features as well as being able to record calls.

Nursery Places

We have a limited number of places still available so if you have children of nursery age or know of friends/family who are looking for places and are new to the area then please get in touch to arrange a visit to our fantastic facility.

Pre-loved Uniform

If you have any uniform your child has grown out of and no longer needs please can you pass it into the school office. We particularly need PE kits & Nursery/Reception uniform. You are welcome to come along and help yourselves to any items of uniform you need from our pre-loved uniform table in the foyer by the school office.

Healthy Snacks/Packed lunches

As a school we are always trying to promote healthy lifestyles and would appreciate your support in providing healthy alternative snack/lunch options for your children.

Free Breakfast Club

Our Free Breakfast Club continues to be extremely popular. It runs every morning in the school hall from 7.45 am, however the cut off time for when food can be served is 8.25 am with the doors closing at 8.35 am. This free facility is available to children from Reception upwards so please do come along.

School Spider - All communications & online payments

Our school communication system is School Spider. It is important that you download the School Spider app so you do not miss out on information. The system also allows you to book and pay for After School Club & School Meals. School Meals & After School Club bookings need to be made via the app in advance. Bookings cannot be made on



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the day. To download, go to the app store on your phone & search School Spider, search for our school & follow the instructions to set up an account. You need to use the same email address that school have for you.

Book Swap

A reminder we have a free book swap located in the foyer by our office! A book swap is an easy and fun way to swap books you no longer need for books you want to read! Please come along to see the books on offer and join in- don't forget to bring something to swap! Book Swap Rules 1. You can leave as many books as you like but please only take one book home at a time. 2. Make sure that the book(s) you are leaving are your own. 3. Make sure your book(s) are appropriate, clean and in good condition. 4. Make sure that you leave the shelf tidy and keep your swapped book in good condition. 5. Bring your book back once you have read it and swap it for another.

Dogs

A reminder to parents that dogs cannot be brought onto the school premises.

Christmas Celebrations – Important Dates

Below are some dates for your diaries regarding Christmas Celebrations in school:

Wednesday 11th Dec – Nursery Christmas Extravaganza 10.15 am and 2.pm (In the Nursery)

Thursday 12th Dec – KS1/Reception Christmas Performance 10 am

Friday 13th Dec - KS1/Reception Christmas Performance 10 am

Tuesday 17th Dec – KS2 Christmas Performances 10 am and 2 pm

Wednesday 18th Dec – School Christmas Dinner/ Christmas Jumper Day

Thursday 19th Dec – Christmas Party Day (*Children come into school in their own clothes*)/Last day for Nursery children)

Friday 20th Dec – School closes at 2 pm for Christmas Holidays

Kind regards

Mr. M. Murphy
Headteacher



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